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Message Text

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67
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W
---------- 001040
R 041248Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7538
INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11430

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, IN
SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES INTERVIEW WITH DMK LEADER

REF: (MADRAS 1373) NEW DELHI 11432

1. CONGEN MADRAS HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO ON MEETING BETWEEN KARUNANIDHI AND HENRY KAMM OF N.Y. TIMES:

QUOTE: HENRY KAMM INFORMED ME AFTER HIS CALL AT CONGEN JULY 28 THAT HE PLANNED TO TRY TO SEE KARUNANIDHI. I REMINDED HIM OF THE ALLEGATIONS RAISED IN THE PRESS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT KARUNANIDHI AND THE DMK HAD HAD US/CIA CONNECTIONS, INFERRING THAT I QUESTIONED WHETHER HE SHOULD IN FACT TRY TO SEE KARUNANIDHI. KAMM SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CHARGES BUT WOULD TRY TO SEE HIM ANYWAY AND ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS TO KARUNANIDHI'S HOUSE. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHERE KARUNANIDHI LIVES. I LATER LEARNED THAT KAMM HAD ASKED ONE OF OUR GUARDS HOW TO GET TO THE HOUSE.

KAMM PLANNED TO GO TO PONDICHERRY THE DAY AFTER I SAW HIM, AND TO LEAVE MADRAS ON JULY 30. HE AGREED TO CHECK BACK IF HE HAD TIME BEFORE HE LEFT, BUT I DID NOT HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN. I DO NOT KNOW ALL OF THOSE HE SAW HERE, BUT HE INFORMED ME HE HAD A LONG, AND WHAT HE CONSIDERED A VERY GOOD, MEETING WITH ADVISER OF THE GOVERNOR R.V. SUBRAMANIAM,
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AND HE MET WITH ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE HINDU KRISHNA

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BALARAMAN,WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "AN OLD FRIEND OF THE NEW YORK TIMES."

THE MANAGER OF KARUNANIDHI'S PAPER, MURASOLI, CHECKED WITH THE USIS TAMIL EDITOR CONCERNING KAMM'S BONA FIDES AND WAS TOLD THAT KAMM WAS IN FACT A BONAFIDE NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ISAACS SAW KARUNANIDHI. HOWEVER, USIS ARRANGED A MEETING FOR ISAACS WITH MR. C. SRINIVASAN, EDITOR OF THE CONGRESS DAILY SWADESAMITRAN. DURING THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT A LOCAL HOTEL, THE CBI APPARENTLY CHECKED THE LICENSE NUMBER OF MR. SRINIVASAN'S SCOOTER, AND LATER QUESTIONED HIM OVER THE TELEPHONE ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH ISAACS. SRINIVASAN STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER ON THE TELEPHONE, AND REQUESTED THAT THE CBI MAN COME TO HIS OFFICE. ACCORDING TO SRINIVASAN, THE MAN WHO HAD CALLED NEVER SHOWED UP AT HIS OFFICE. END QUOTE.

2. ASIDE FROM NUMEROUS OTHER MISSTATEMENTS IN THE PRO-CPI PAPER'S REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW, (REFTEL) ISAACS HAS BEEN IN DELHI FOR THE LAST SIX DAYS OR SO, PLANS TO REMAIN ANOTHER WEEK, AND HAS CERTAINLY NOT BEEN EXPELLED. KAMM, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, IS ALSO STILL IN INDIA AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN DELHI THIS WEEKEND.
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